

Group III encompasses claims 24-27. These four claims are drawn to a polynucleotide encoding a fusion protein and a method of inducing angiogenesis by transfecting an endothelial cell with the polynucleotide, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

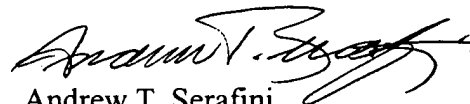
Applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, claims 1-7 and 28-29, without traverse.

Applicants request that the application now be examined on the merits.

A response was due on May 26, 2002 which falls on a Sunday, and May 27, 2002 was a Federal Holiday, therefore the filing of this application on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 is considered timely.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (650) 326-2400, Ext. 5228.

Respectfully submitted,


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